Increase in rail accidents

†1317. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents has increase during the last two years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the reason behind these accidents is misuse of modern technique by the employees;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to minimize the train accidents and also to check the misuse of modern technique by employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These measures include timely replacement of over aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result the number of consequential train accidents have come down from 473 in 2002-2001 to 415 in 2001-2002, 351 in 2002-2003, 325 in 2003-2004, and further to 234 in 2004-05.

Rail accidents

1318. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the there was a report which says that 6 accidents take place every week in India;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry from time to time; and

(c) the details about safety mechanism in place as of now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.